

INFORMATION SHEET

ORDER NO. _____
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS
COUNTY OF FRESNO
FOR OPERATION AND CONSTRUCTION
AMERICAN AVENUE MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILL
FRESNO COUNTY

The County of Fresno (hereafter Discharger) owns and operates a municipal solid waste landfill approximately five miles southwest of the City of Kerman. The 440-acre waste management facility consists of an unlined waste management unit covering 30 acres (Phase I) and a 160-acre composite-lined waste management unit (Phase II). The Discharger proposes to expand the waste management facility by constructing Phase III (250 acres) upon completion of Phase II.

The facility is situated in a topographically flat region of the San Joaquin Valley. Soils underlying the site are interbedded sands, silty-sands, sandy-silts, and silts. In-situ soil permeabilities are reported to be in the range of 1×10^{-3} and 1×10^{-5} cm/s. Groundwater is found below 100 feet in depth. The groundwater gradient in the area of the site is about 2.5 feet in 1,000 feet toward the southeast. The quality of underlying groundwater is highly variable with electrical conductivity ranging from 350 to 940 umhos/cm.

The Discharger proposes to clean-close the existing inactive unlined waste management unit (Phase II) by excavating and sorting solid waste from soils within the unlined cell, as a means of mitigating known landfill releases and to provide additional soil needs for landfill operations. Finer materials that pass through a screening process will be used as daily cover material on the landfill's active face. Objects that do not pass the screening process will be discharged into a composite-lined landfill cell. Excavation of the unlined unit will continue until the entire unlined waste cell is removed. The Discharger proposes to begin constructing a composite liner system in the place of the former unlined waste management unit once the unlined unit has been clean-closed, which will be contiguous with existing Phase II and proposed Phase III.

The Discharger submitted a landfill liner design performance report for the proposed Phase III waste management unit to demonstrate that the proposed engineered alternative design would meet the performance standard contained in Section 20310(c) of Title 27 for a Class III landfill. The demonstration utilized a model to predict the performance of the proposed liner design and the fate and transport of a release of waste constituents from Phase III. To ensure proper installation of the engineered alternative landfill liner system, the Discharger has agreed to perform an electronic leak detection survey (ELDS) over the entire base of the liner system subsequent to placement of the operations layer on the liner and leachate collection and removal system to detect and repair any liner defects prior to placing waste. In addition to performing the ELDS, the County will place select waste over the operations layer to reduce the potential damage to the base liner during initial refuse filling operations. Based on the results of the model showing that the engineered alternative liner design would contain the wastes discharged to the Unit, and the design and construction features of the engineered alternative liner system, the Regional Board finds that the engineered alternative liner meets the performance standard contained in Title 27. The Discharger has also demonstrated that the proposed liner system meets the approval criteria set forth in Section 20080(b) of Title 27 for engineered alternative designs.

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The Discharger proposes to accept treated wood waste at the American Avenue Landfill. Existing law regulates the control of hazardous waste, but exempts from the hazardous waste control laws, wood waste that is exempt from regulation under the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended (RCRA), if the wood waste is disposed of in a municipal landfill that meets certain requirements imposed pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act for the classification of disposal sites, and the landfill meets other specified requirements outlined in Sections 25143.1.5, 25150.7, and 25150.8 of the Health and Safety Code. The Discharger has indicated that all treated wood waste accepted at the American Avenue Landfill will be handled and disposed of in accordance with the provisions outlined in Sections 25143.1.5, 25150.7, and 25150.8 of the Health and Safety Code. The American Avenue Landfill appears to meet the necessary requirements imposed pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. This order therefore allows the disposal of treated wood waste in accordance with the conditions imposed pursuant to the Health and Safety Code.

Groundwater quality is monitored by 15 monitoring wells located near the facility's point of compliance. This order requires the installation of additional monitoring wells to bring the existing groundwater monitoring system into compliance with Title 27 regulations as the construction of proposed Phase III progresses.

Volatile organic compounds were first detected in groundwater when the detection monitoring wells were installed and continue to be detected sporadically in the detection monitoring wells at concentrations below primary water quality standards. The Discharger is currently conducting evaluation monitoring in accordance with Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 98-702. However, the final evaluation monitoring report has not been submitted to date. This order rescinds Order No. 98-702 and requires timely completion of the evaluation monitoring program and implementation of a feasibility study for corrective action.

The action to update WDRs for this facility is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.), in accordance with 14 CCR, Section 15301.

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